

pledged word of the American people and to save its honor and vindicate its justice, in which I believe, I proclaim the existence in the Caracas Legation of State documents, heretofore suppressed, which will show how the American government has persecuted me and why it still persecutes me today. The American people, laborious, conscientious, progressive, was the greatest nation in the world until it embarked on its policy of imperialism. South American republics are but a crumb for the gigantic United States government. But I still believe this great people will not tolerate the previous injustice to me nor permit me to be exiled from its shores. The issue between myself and the United States government, when I was president of Venezuela, narrows itself down to this: When the claims of the European nations against Venezuela had been presented and the blockade declared against Venezuela by Great Britain, Germany and Italy, the United States government intervened through its minister in Venezuela, Mr. Bowen. The issues were taken to Washington, where Mr. Bowen signed protocols in the name of Venezuela and the United States in which said issues were submitted to arbitrators who were to meet in Caracas. The mixed commission met at the appointed time and passed on all points, including the claims of American citizens or American companies. But later, while the terms decided upon were being faithfully and strictly carried out by the Venezuelan government, the United States government intervened again, in order that said decisions should not be complied with as regards the American companies, the Bermudez, the Manoa, the Griffel and the Orinoco company. The Venezuelan government, represented by me, insisted that the diplomatic arrangement made by Mr. Bowen should be carried out, and for this reason the United States government broke off its diplomatic relations with that of Venezuela and withdrew its minister from Caracas, later supporting Gomez, who was betraying me and betraying the republic, to such an extent that twice it pursued me in the West Indian seas with the American fleet, making me appear to be a pirate in order that I should not return to Venezuela to bring the traitor Gomez to account for his misdeeds. I was not captured because, lying sick in Teneriffe, I could not be found committing any act of piracy. This is a summary of the facts, which are to be found recorded in the United States legation at Caracas, in the following form: First—The protocol signed by Mr. Bowen, with every nation and with the representative of the United States government. Second—The notes communicated to me by the United States government and my republics. Third—The withdrawal of the minister of Venezuela and the rupture of relations. Fourth—The United States government's pursuit of me, since five years ago, it hunted me with its armored cruisers. Fifth—The subsequent arrangement made with Gomez, breaking the agreement entered into in the diplomatic protocols."

THE sixteenth amendment of the federal constitution (income tax) follows: "The congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states and without regard to any census or enumeration." Referring to the new amendment, a writer in the New York World says: "This amendment was submitted to the states by a practically unanimous vote of congress in July of 1909. Its ratification by the Delaware and Wyoming legislatures completes a process of nearly four years in making it a part of the constitution. The first ten amendments in bulk were ratified within about two years of submission to the states. The eleventh amendment was in force less than four years after submission. The twelfth amendment was in force less than one year from submission. The thirteenth amendment, abolishing slavery, consumed a year and a half in ratification. The fourteenth amendment in protection of the negro's legal rights, took two years for ratification. The fifteenth amendment, in protection of the negro's right to vote, was declared in force one year and a month from submission by congress. All of these fifteen amendments either restricted or added to the powers of the national government. This sixteenth amendment alone restores to that government a vital power which it had before held or exercised until taken away by a supreme court decision in 1895. Such an amendment should not have taken fourteen years to gain the approval of congress. It should not have taken all but unprecedented

period of four years to win ratification from the states. But unlike any other amendment, it had to fight the vast influence of excessive wealth throughout the nation. It is not true, therefore, that amendment of the constitution has become more and more impracticable. It is not true that strained judicial construction or more direct popular action is needed to conform it to changing conditions. The process established by the founders of the government has again been shown to be equal to any situation important enough to set it in motion."

A GOLD loving cup was presented Chairman William F. McCombs, of the democratic national committee by his assistants in the recent campaign. A New York dispatch, carried by the Associated Press, says: The presentation speech was made by Norman E. Mack, whom Mr. McCombs succeeded as chairman. Henry Morgenthau spoke for the campaign committee, and Martin J. Wade, national committeeman for Iowa, for the state committeemen. In presenting the cup Mr. Mack said that Chairman McCombs' success in having his candidate made the convention nominee at Baltimore made him the logical choice for chairman, and added: "This cup will remind you of the great contest that you waged so successfully and the victory that came to the party in the last memorable contest in which you, as national chairman, elected a democratic president, a democratic congress and democratic governors in more states than ever before in the history of the democratic party."

NOW there is a little diplomatic wrangle between Cuba and the United States. A United Press dispatch says: The state department acted promptly on the complaint of American Minister Beaupre to the effect that he had been grossly libeled by the newspaper Cuba in Havana, by instructing the minister to request the Cuban government to prosecute the author of the libelous statement. In the event that it is found the responsible persons can not be reached in this way, owing to the shortcomings of the Cuban libel laws, the Cuban government may be requested to deport the Spanish editor of the paper. Following closely upon the personal assault on Secretary Gibson of the American legation by a Cuban newspaper reporter, it is felt that such attempts as those made by the Cuba to incite violence against the personnel of the legation must be summarily dealt with in their inception.

A N HAVANNA dispatch, relating to the same subject, says. Arthur M. Beaupre, the American minister to Cuba, acting under direction of the state department at Washington, presented to Secretary of State Sanguily a peremptory note insisting that immediate measures be taken for the prosecution and exemplary punishment of the persons responsible for recent attacks on the American legation by the newspaper Cuba. The note intimates that should the Cuban laws be insufficient for the protection of foreign diplomats the United States will insist that means for their protection be found promptly. A further attack on Mr. Beaupre was made by the same newspaper, which reiterated its former charges. It also announced that Representative Soto, who is described as the editor of Cuba, will present a bill to congress demanding that President Gomez submit to the house copies of all the notes presented to the government by Mr. Beaupre and Hugh S. Gibson, secretary of the American legation. The announcement that Senor Soto has assumed the editorship of the Cuba is taken here to indicate that the actual editor, Jose Maria Villaverde, will attempt to take shelter behind Soto, who, as a representative, is immune from prosecution, without the consent of congress. "There is rising indignation among Americans here over the failure of President Gomez to take recourse in the remedy of deporting Villaverde, which he promptly did by presidential decree last year, when the Cuba assailed him. Later he permitted Villaverde to return."

CHAIRMAN PUJO of the money trust investigating committee and Attorney Undermyer went to Jekyl, Ga., for the purpose of examining William Rockefeller. They had only time to ask him four questions when he had a spasm of the throat which put him on the verge of a nervous collapse. The Associated Press report says: The net result of the session so far as the money trust investigation was concerned added practically nothing of value to the record. It did demonstrate to the satisfaction of Mr.

Undermyer and Mr. Pujo that Mr. Rockefeller hardly was a fit subject physically for a gruelling examination on the details of his financial career. Members of the Jekyl Island club and Dr. Walter F. Chappelle shook their heads doubtfully when asked about Mr. Rockefeller's physical condition.

DREAD OF THE KENYON-SHEPPARD BILL

The liquor interest looks with dread and alarm on the prospect of temperance legislation by the federal congress, and all who oppose the restriction of the liquor traffic are strongly resisting the passage of the Kenyon-Sheppard bill now pending in congress, and which forbids the shipment of intoxicants from one state into "dry" territory in another state.

One of the arguments against the passage of the laws forbidding the manufacture and sale of liquors in Tennessee was that other states would get the benefit of the traffic by shipping into our "dry" territory. Those who made this argument said that they would favor the enactment of our temperance laws if the federal laws, permitting shipment from one state into another, did not stand in the way of making our laws effective.

Now when congress is about to pass a law that will enable the state to enforce in spirit as well as in letter the laws forbidding the manufacture and sale of liquor, a number of people are searching for some reason to oppose it.

An organ of the liquor interest expressed the view that such a law would work a great hardship on gentlemen living in "dry" territory who wanted liquor, as it would enable the state temperance laws to be made effective in doing the things designed.

Other opponents of the Kenyon-Sheppard bill contend that shipments of liquor into dry states should be allowed unless it be proved that the shipments are made for the purpose of sale.

Those who favor the liquor traffic oppose any measure that may make the temperance laws stronger.

The people of a state, however, ought to have a right to control their own affairs, and when their legislature, representing them, enacts laws forbidding the manufacture and sale of liquor within their state the federal government ought not to be a protector of the defier of such laws by permitting him to invade the dry territory of another state under the shield of interstate commerce.

The Commoner, as far back as 1910, printed an editorial written by Mr. Bryan, which is as follows:

"Interstate commerce is used to override state laws. What democrat is willing to put himself on record against the proposition that the right of the people of a state to control the liquor traffic is more sacred than the right of liquor dealers to dispose of their product in dry territory and in violation of the law? Mr. Bryan believes that congress should pass a law recognizing the right of each state to prescribe the conditions upon which intoxicating liquors can be transported, sold and used within its borders. He also believes that the federal government should dissolve partnership with law breakers and no longer issue licenses for the sale of liquor in communities where local laws prohibit its sale. If it is thought unconstitutional to discriminate, in the issue of licenses between different communities, the same end can be reached by reducing the license to a nominal figure and requiring the applicant for a federal license to give written notice to the local authorities, and newspaper notice to the local public of his intention to apply for a license. Now let those who oppose these propositions meet them with arguments."

The reason the liquor people so violently oppose the Kenyon-Sheppard bill is because it recognizes the right of each state to prescribe the conditions upon which intoxicating liquors may be transported, used and sold within its borders—Nashville Tennessean

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